

HOTEL BELLEVUE PALACE BERNE

*Grand Hotel & Pensionshof*

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Office of Chief of Counsel,  
APO. 696-17.  
U. S. Army.

29 November 1947

Mr. James S. Kronthal,  
American Legation,  
Bern, Switzerland.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2001 2008

Dear Sir,

You will have been informed of my call in  
the matter of Franz Riedweg et al. I have further seen  
Messrs. Balziger, Huetli and Maurer of the Swiss  
Prosecuting Department and Police.

After my first discussion with the Swiss  
Gentlemen I called Mr. Petersen and informed  
him that the Swiss are making arrangements to  
receive Riedweg, if possible, prior to the trial, which  
is to commence on 4 December at Lucerne.

It is doubtful whether my office will  
assign somebody to attend the trial. In any  
case, it would be necessary to have a stenographer  
who understands Swiss German and can take notes.

Such notes would be of great assistance in the "Wilhelmstrasse" trial which is to begin on 16 December at Nuremberg. It would be much appreciated if your Office would send such stenographer to the Lucerne trial. Dr. Huebner would no doubt cooperate in indicating to the stenographer which positions are to be taken down. I am not authorized to commit my office with regard to the expenses involved which perhaps could be borne by your department. The trial is expected to last about 10 days and it may be advisable to send a local person.

It would also be appreciated if the reports about the trial in the big Swiss papers as well as the Lucerne papers can be collected and sent to us.

Roughly speaking, we are interested in the part which the SS-Hauptamt (SS-Obergruppenführer Berger) and also the Auswärtiges Amt and the Propaganda Ministry played, not only in Switzerland but with regard to other "Germanic" countries, too.

I may mention that Dr. Huebner expressed his regret at an apparent misunderstanding and promised every assistance after the trial, but found it at present difficult to hand over any documents to us as they will be needed in Lucerne.

Mr. Petersen's and my own telephone number is now: Nuremberg 61373.

May I express my thanks for the assistance rendered to me by your staff. Yours very sincerely,  
Rudolph Aeschbacher.

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